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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 24203	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR99/01100	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 May 1999 (10.05.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 12 May 1998 (12.05.98)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C07C 233/36		
Applicant	ADIR ET COMPAGNIE	

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 22 November 1999 (22.11.99)	Date of completion of this report 23 June 2000 (23.06.2000)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

the international application as originally filed.

the description, pages 1-120, as originally filed,
pages _____, filed with the demand,
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the claims, Nos. 1-85, as originally filed,
Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____,
Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____

the drawings, sheets/fig _____, as originally filed,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-85	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-85	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-85	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

None of the documents cited in the search report discloses the subject matter of the present application. Therefore, claims 1-85 are novel (PCT Article 33(2)). The present application (claims 1-85) does not appear to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:

The subject matter of the present application is the preparation of compounds having a very strong affinity for melatonin receptors and/or a selectivity for one of the melatonergic receptor sub-types. Among the compounds of the prior art, D1 (EP-A-0 530 087, page 2) and D2 (EP-A-0 728 738, pages 2-4) appear to be the closest. On the basis of D1 and in light of D2, it is obvious for a person skilled in the art to produce the present compounds.

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VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

The term "etc" and the symbol "..." (page 9) are not clear
(PCT Article 6).